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5 February 1965

DCI BRIEFING

FOR THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

COLOMBIA

I. In Colombia, Communists and other leftists are continuing their efforts to turn the widespread banditry of the back country into a coordinated guerrilla insurgency serving political ends.

A. In the past, concerted army efforts have ultimately won effective--if incomplete--victories over guerrilla leaders who professed and in some cases demonstrated ties to Castro. The latest such campaign was against a bandit known as Tiro Fijo, or "Sure Shot," leader of the Communist enclave in the Marquetalia area, who the Colombian Army finally claims to have "neutralized."

B. A small urban terrorist organization of about 100 men, calling itself the Army for National Liberation or ELN, however, now threatens to become the nucleus for a new attempt to coordinate insurgency in Colombia.

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1. On 7 January 25-50 ELN guerrillas attacked a town in Santander Province using tactics similar to Venezuela's FALN. ELN efforts to broaden its guerrilla base in other areas have been reported and the ELN is also said to control some urban groups. Clandestine reports indicate the ELN has received funds and training from Cuba.
- II. Rural violence continues elsewhere in Colombia while the government wrestles with acute political and economic problems and labor unrest.

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